Dear Friends and Supporters,

Since listening to Dr. Anton Treuer speak at our Spring Thaw event, I’ve been thinking a lot about our connection to place and to the future. Dr. Treuer encouraged us to always make decisions while keeping in mind the next seven generations. How will the actions we take today impact our grandchildren’s grandchildren — their ability to look up and see the stars, to eat the fish they catch, to hear the warblers arrive in the trees in June, or to enjoy a paddle or boat ride through miles of vast waterways? This past year, I welcomed my first son; now more than ever I hold this commitment firmly in my heart.

Thank you for being a community of supporters who understand the importance of connection — to place, to the past, and to the future — and our role in stewarding wild places like Voyageurs National Park. As you review our 2021 Annual Report, I hope you feel proud of the important projects and programs you helped make possible. From launching our new education and Field Fellows programs, to funding on-the-ground projects like the Jun Fujita cabin restoration, it was a busy year expanding our impact.

Let’s continue to ensure Voyageurs National Park is a place where we all can connect to the past and future — for generations to come.

See you on the water,

Christina Hausman Rhode
Executive Director
The Voyageurs Conservancy awarded Voyageurs National Park an additional grant for wayside signs at the new Rainy Lake Fishing Pier and hosted a grand-opening event. The Rainy Lake Fishing Pier was funded in partnership with the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club and the Conservancy. This fully-accessible pier allows visitors of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities angling opportunities on the outstanding waters of Rainy Lake.

With funding support from the Conservancy, National Park Service staff removed 2,800 square feet of deteriorated wood at the Kettle Falls Overlook, the most-visited park destination. The fully-accessible overlook was completed in Summer 2021 and includes an environmentally-friendly design and revitalized educational signage. Now all visitors can appreciate the location where Native peoples gathered, hunted, and speared sturgeon at the falls, voyageurs paddled and portaged through, and prospectors traveled to on their way to the Rainy Lake gold mines.

In Fall 2021, the Voyageurs Conservancy funded youth preservation crews to restore and preserve Jun Fujita’s cabin. This project with the Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Corps addressed nearly $50,000 in deferred maintenance. Funding from the Conservancy and National Park Foundation helped the park address major safety and structural concerns, ensuring the Jun Fujita cabin’s legacy is preserved and shared with visitors.

Jun Fujita was a talented photojournalist, actor, and poet. Through his lens, he captured monumental moments including Al Capone and the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre. Fujita sought refuge among the boreal forests and wildflowers in what is now Voyageurs National Park. His photos were used by conservationist Ernest Oberholtzer to prevent a series of dams from being built within the Rainy Lake watershed and to preserve the precious ecosystems of the north woods.

The Conservancy funded reseeding efforts to restore native vegetation along an additional 10 acres of previously cattail-invaded shoreline habitat. In Summer 2021, wetland restoration activities were focused in Olson, Cranberry, and Lost Bays. The multi-year wetland restoration project with the National Park Service and many partners provides critical habitat for waterfowl, fish, and native vegetation such as wild rice.

The Conservancy provided funding support for the Voyageurs Wolf Project, an ongoing research and monitoring effort focused on understanding the summer ecology of wolves in the Greater Voyageurs Ecosystem.
**Voyageurs Classroom Initiative Led by New Education & Outreach Director**

The Conservancy hired its first Education & Outreach Director, Breanna Trygg. New staff serve as a catalyst for community, tribal, and education partnerships to increase programming that connects youth and families to their national park. The Voyageurs Classroom Initiative is a joint program with Voyageurs National Park that includes a suite of education programs, field trips, and opportunities.

Major funding for the Voyageurs Classroom Initiative comes from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Our education coordinator served 506 elementary students and our education field fellow piloted dark sky education programs to 169 third and fifth grade students.

**Voyageurs Field Fellows**

The Voyageurs Field Fellows program increases accessibility and professional development opportunities at Voyageurs National Park. The fellowship offers students and recent graduates a stipend-paid internship to engage in real world, hands-on work at the park.

The aquatic ecology program hosted the park’s first Voyageurs Conservancy Field Fellow. Reece Banta helped the park carry out funded research projects, she gained experience in studying coldwater fish habitats, cyanotoxins, and muskie populations and completing annual water quality, mercury, and invasive mussel-monitoring programs.

Sarah Bransford served as an Environmental Education Field Fellow and enhanced Conservancy education programs through an equity and inclusion lens. She implemented these improvements by leading the National Park Teen Ambassador Program. Additionally, she delivered virtual field trips to over 150 students to inspire young explorers to protect dark skies.

**Conservancy Sponsors Northern Bedrock Historic Preservation Youth Corps**

Youth crews from Northern Bedrock Preservation Corps embarked on multi-day “hitches” to restore aspects of the historic Jun Fujita Cabin on Rainy Lake. This project introduced young adults to historic preservation and trade skills in the outstanding outdoor classroom of Voyageurs National Park.

**National Park Teen Ambassadors**

Over 160 Teen Ambassadors were served from the Twin Cities, Duluth, and local gateway schools through canoeing, camping, and outdoor leadership trips in Voyageurs National Park.

For the first time ever, the Conservancy partnered with the National Park Service and Wilderness Inquiry to host single-day park field trips with local gateway schools. The Conservancy has provided scholarships for Minnesota high school students to experience their national park since 2012.

---

**Glen Benedict**

**Rachel Thompson**

**Voyageurs Star Party**

Voyageurs National Park and the Conservancy celebrated their first summer as an International Dark Sky Park with a multi-day Voyageurs Star Party.

**Women of the Water / Mukooda Hiking Trail**

Voyageurs Conservancy and NPS partnered with Women of the Water, a Crane Lake community boating club for a service project on Mukooda Lake. Volunteers built monofilament recycling stations that keep dangerous waste such as fishing line, hooks, and tackle off park shorelines.

**2021 Park by the Numbers**

| 243,042 | Park Visits |
| 4,816  | Camping Reservations |
| 2,059  | Houseboat Permits |
| 4,917  | Volunteer Hours at the Park |
| 36     | Acres of Wetlands Treated for Invasive Species |
| 34,350 | Visitor center visitors |
| 2,428  | New Junior Rangers |
| 30     | Muskellunge tagged in Little Shoepack Lake as part of a population assessment project |
| 10     | park wetlands monitored for amphibian calling and water depth |
|        | Water quality monitored in 15 lakes |

---

**Conservancy**

**Voyageurs Conservancy 2021 Annual Report**

---

**Voyageurs Conservancy 2021 Annual Report**
## Financials

### Statement of Financial Position
as of December 31 (unaudited):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>$215,182</td>
<td>$196,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Fund Investment</td>
<td>$408,707</td>
<td>$430,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets, Land</td>
<td>$58,000</td>
<td>$58,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Current Assets</td>
<td>$285</td>
<td>$285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$682,174</strong></td>
<td><strong>$685,160</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Liabilities</td>
<td>$35,299</td>
<td>$56,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>$646,875</td>
<td>$628,366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$682,174</strong></td>
<td><strong>$685,160</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Statement of Activities
for the year ended December 31 (unaudited):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPPORT &amp; ASSETS</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$129,981</td>
<td>$117,303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$275,139</td>
<td>$182,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>$41</td>
<td>$172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income &amp; In-kind</td>
<td>$37,032</td>
<td>$52,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support &amp; Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$442,193</strong></td>
<td><strong>$352,594</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Service</td>
<td>$357,648</td>
<td>$259,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Acquisition</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$38,319</td>
<td>$29,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$29,804</td>
<td>$29,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$425,771</strong></td>
<td><strong>$318,447</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue over Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$16,422</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,147</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Thank You 2021 Supporters

#### $5,000 and above
Anonymous  
Jim and Susan Bizal  
Bizal Built  
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation - Biodiversity Fund  
F. Dallas Fogg  
Sigmond Johnson  
Esther and Martin Kellogg  
Minnesota Environmental Fund  
Mortenson Family Foundation  
National Park Service  
National Park Foundation  
Katherine and Stuart Nielsen  
REI Co-op  
Virginia Sweatt  
Lucia Watson  
Mark and Cynthia Weber  

#### $1,000 - $4,999
Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation  
Laurie Brand  
Jeffrey D. Brown and Katherine Sill  
Landbridge Ecological  
Diane Cooley and Charles J. Cooley, M.D.  
Delta Dental of Minnesota  
TenX Dollar  
Ebels Voyageur Houseboats  
Paul Egeland  
Forgotten Star Brewing Co  
The Fredrikson and Byron Foundation  
Fredrikson & Byron, PA  
Alex Fuhrman and Aneesha Marwah  
Tina Ham Peterson  
Hamill Family Foundation  
David and Cynthia Hansen  
Elizabeth Hyatt  
International Falls, Rainy Lake and Ranier Convention and Visitors Bureau  
Eric Johnson and Megan Bond  
Ken and Judy Kadal  

#### $100 - $999
Anonymous  
Robert Acton  
Richard Allyn and Margo Brownell  
Deena Anders  
Bremer Bank, N.A.  
Amy and James Arcand  
Armotti Family Fund  
Brian Avey  
Jane Bacchus Ray  
Catherine Bannister  
Mary Bannister  
Dori Bartelt  
Jay and Julie Bartkowski  
Mark and Maggi Baumgartner  
Donald Beck  
Scott Benson  

---

**ASSETS**

**2021**

- Cash & Cash Equivalents: $215,182
- Legacy Fund Investment: $408,707
- Fixed Assets, Land: $58,000
- Other Current Assets: $285

**2020**

- Cash & Cash Equivalents: $196,233
- Legacy Fund Investment: $430,452
- Fixed Assets, Land: $58,190
- Other Current Assets: $285

**Total Assets**

- **$682,174**

**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

**2021**

- Accounts Payable: $ -
- Other Liabilities: $35,299
- Equity: $646,875

**2020**

- Accounts Payable: $ -
- Other Liabilities: $56,794
- Equity: $628,366

**Total Liabilities & Net Assets**

- **$682,174**

**EXPENSES**

**Program Service**

- **$357,648**

**Land Acquisition**

- $ -

**Management & General**

- $38,319

**Fundraising**

- $29,804

**Total Expenses**

- **$425,771**

**Revenue over Expenses**

- **$16,422**

**2021 Revenue by Source**

- Donations 62%
- Grants 29.5%
- Misc. Income & In-kind 8.5%

**2021 Expenditures by Purpose**

- Program Service 84%
- Management & General 9%
- Fundraising 7%

---

Voyageurs Conservancy 2021 Annual Report
“We all have our role in protecting this land. The teamwork in that, collaborating and protecting it together is the only way to really preserve what we have up here.”

—Emily Schwanke, Voyageurs Guide Service
There’s no way that the National Park Services can care for these special places all by ourselves. I want to thank all of you as Voyageurs Conservancy supporters from the National Parks Services team. We are so grateful for our partnership and we look forward to all of the great things we can do in the future.”

—Bob Degross, Voyageurs National Park Superintendent

In-Kind Gifts

Able Seedhouse + Brewery
The Alliance For Florida’s National Parks
Amy and James Arcand
Scott Bemman
Border Guide Service
Anthony Brandenburg
Jim and Judy Brandenburg, Ravenwood Studios
Annie Brown
Mary Casanova
Allison Charnin
Mary Casanova
Annie Brown
Mary Casanova
Allison Charnin
ChicoBag Company
Allison Charnin
Mary Casanova
Annie Brown
Mary Casanova
Allison Charnin
Simms Fishing
Scott Bemman
Border Guide Service
Rei co-op
Patagonia
Voyageurs Guide Service
Voyagaire Lodge & Houseboats
Voyageur Outfitters
Voyageurs Wolf Project
Wintergreen Northern Wear
Wenonah Canoe
Wright State University
COAST Products
Swanky Gifts on Rainy Street
Enlightened Equipment
Butch Eggen Wilderness Guide Service
COAST Products
Mend Provisions
Mend Provisions
Mend Provisions
Able Seedhouse + Brewery
The Alliance For Florida’s National Parks
Amy and James Arcand
Scott Bemman
Border Guide Service
Anthony Brandenburg
Jim and Judy Brandenburg, Ravenwood Studios
Annie Brown
Mary Casanova
Allison Charnin
ChicoBag Company
Allison Charnin
Mary Casanova
Annie Brown
Mary Casanova
Allison Charnin
Simms Fishing
Scott Bemman
Border Guide Service
Rei co-op
Patagonia
Voyageurs Guide Service
Voyagaire Lodge & Houseboats
Voyageur Outfitters
Voyageurs Wolf Project
Wintergreen Northern Wear
Wenonah Canoe
Wright State University
COAST Products
Swanky Gifts on Rainy Street
Enlightened Equipment
Butch Eggen Wilderness Guide Service
COAST Products
Mend Provisions
Mend Provisions
Mend Provisions

This list recognizes donors who gave January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. If you identify any errors or omissions, please contact us at 612-333-5424.

12 Voyageurs Conservancy 2021 Annual Report
13 Voyageurs Conservancy 2021 Annual Report
Staff
Christina Hausman Rhode  
Executive Director
Breanna Trygg  
Education and Outreach Director
Megan Noetzel  
Membership & Communications Manager
Jesse Gates  
Education Specialist
Nicole Anderson Davis  
Operations & Development Coordinator

2021 Board of Directors
Sharon Oswald, Chair
Amy Arcand, Vice Chair
Dave Hansen, Treasurer
Carl Numrich, Secretary
Matt Mueller
Rose Carr
F. Dallas Fogg
Megan Bond
Tenzin Dolkar
Dave Chaffin
Jack Fistler, Past Chair
Jim Bizal
Stephen Dupont
Caroline Pflueger
Karina Hill
Mark Weber

Honorary Board Members
Lee Barthel
John Roth
Douglas Franchot
Michael Frome (1920–2016)
Martin N. Kellogg (1930–2019)
Harry Sweatt (1931–2020)